



**PATENT**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re Application of:** MUELLER et al.

**Application No.:** 10/613,486

**Examiner:**

**Filed:** July 3, 2003

**Group Art Unit:**

**For:** STACKER

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

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Steven M. Greenberg

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

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Sir:

Pursuant to the Duty to Disclose under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby disclose information that may be relevant to the Examiner's consideration of the above-identified application and the patentability of its claims.

In accordance with Rules 56, 97, and 98 of the Rules of Practice in Patent Cases (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98), Form PTO/SB/08A and copies of references cited therein are submitted for consideration by the Examiner. While the references provided in this Information Disclosure Statement may be material to patentability pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any reference referred to herein is prior art for this invention unless specially designated as such. Also, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the

filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1); therefore, no fee is believed to be due. However, if any fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee and any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

8.21.03  
Date

Docket No. 7296-2

  
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Steven M. Greenberg, Reg. No. 44,725  
AKERMAN SENTERFITT  
222 Lakeview Avenue, Suite 400  
Post Office Box 3188  
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3188  
Telephone: (561) 653-5000  
Facsimile: (561) 659-6313



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PTO/SB/08A (04-03)

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet	2	of	2
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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/613,486
Filing Date	July 3, 2003
First Named Inventor	Mueller et al.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	7296-2

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter: Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is requested to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to (and) by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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